

MMSA News

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MMS College & Career Day – Wednesday, November 25th

College & Career Day is one way the MMS School Counseling Department, in conjunction with faculty, community and parent volunteers, provides students with opportunities to think about their career choices.

MMS Career Day offers all 7th and 8th grade students the opportunity to learn about college and career options. This year we were pleased to offer 16 different exploratory sessions. Students explored some of the following college and career paths during this day: college admissions, microbiologist, firefighters, health care workers, law enforcement and athletic training.

Participation in college & career day encourages students to begin to think about the following concepts:

- recognizing personal interests, aptitudes, and abilities,
- identifying their role in preparing for college,
- understanding the meaning of work and career possibilities available currently and in the future,
- preparing oneself through the acquisition of certain skills and course work, and
- discussing the importance of successfully living and working in a culturally diverse world

Model Congress – Friday, December 4th

A full-morning simulation of the legislative process took place on Friday, December 4th. Eighth graders held committee meetings and wrote 60 bills on issues like 8th Grade Privileges, Success Cards, Community Service, and 8th Grade Leadership. Only 10 of those bills were acted upon in any way, and just 3 passed both the House and Senate and were signed by President Morell.

Students experienced the frustration and disappointment of having their bills fail, as well as the excitement of their bills being discussed and voted upon. The three bills that were enacted include uses for Success Cards, 8th Grade Tutoring 5th/6th graders during X-Block, and Earth Day Clean-up of Bicentennial Pond area in April.

Upcoming Events

January 4

Classes Resume

January 5

Auditions for The Lion King

January 6

Auditions for The Lion King

January 18

No School

January 19

No School

January 27

Group Photo Day

February 2

MMSA Meeting, 7pm

February 3

Local History Day 3-5pm

February 15

No School

February 16

No School

February 26

Grade 7 Boston Field Trip

8th Grade Curriculum Extensions

After participating in Model Congress simulation, students traveled to the Connecticut State Capitol, Legislative Office Building, and the Connecticut History Museum to see the where “real world” legislation is made. During this field trip, Representative Gregg Haddad met with our 8th graders to explain the roles of Connecticut’s legislators and the processes through which they make laws.

In addition, the Mansfield Middle School Association provided generous contributions from their fundraising efforts to provide two more enrichment opportunities. On November 18, all 8th graders traveled to the Bushnell Theater in Hartford to see a live performance of Warriors Don’t Cry, an enactment of the experiences of the Little Rock Nine students who integrated schools in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1957. In December all 8th graders visited the Mark Twain House as part of the Literature curriculum, and the MMSA supported a Social Studies extension to this field experience: Dr. James Golden traveled to MMS to work with our students from the Mark Twain House where he serves as the director of education. He presented our students with primary and secondary sources about important figures in Twain’s life, and the students used their skills as historians and sleuths to piece together details about life in the 1800s in Hartford, Connecticut.

Student Council

The Student Council would like to thank you for your generosity.

The November "Falloween" party, the "Caps for Kindness" day, staff "dress down" day donations and trick-or-treating box collections resulted in a \$900 donation to UNICEF. This will help kids around the world receive education and health support.

Our Pennies for Warmth contest and staff "dress down" day donations resulted in a \$3000(!) donation to the WAIM Emergency Fuel Bank. This will keep many of our neighbors warm this winter. We also had a nice turnout for the Walk for Warmth on 11/22 to show our support for the community.

Winter Music Concerts

In December our band, orchestra and choral ensembles performed their winter concerts for their families and MMS students. Students in all three ensembles worked tirelessly during the fall to prepare the pieces that they performed. All ensembles played beautifully. Students and their families should be quite proud of their accomplishment.

Around the Block

MMS 5th grade students participated in a program focused on physical activity and goal setting. This program was facilitated by UCONN students; Breanna Stewart, Taylor Mills, Marissa Carbone, Breanna Tolla, Curtis Field, and Kimberlee Arthur. Each week began with a motivational video message centered on the core ideals of the program; hard work, confidence, commitment and team work. Students completed a weekly activity log. Those students who had met the weekly exercise challenge for all four weeks had their name entered in a drawing for the opportunity to attend a UCONN women’s basketball practice at the new training center. On December 4th, twenty-five students were invited to attend a practice and meet the team members. Students and teachers were very appreciative of this unique community connection opportunity.

The Lion King

Auditions for the spring production of *The Lion King* will take place on January 5th & 6th after school. The production will be performed April 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

Book Trailers

Some Sixth Grade students have been practicing their marketing skills by creating book trailers. Like movie trailers, book trailers hook a potential audience by revealing the high points, the emotions, and just enough of the plot to make you want more. Using Animoto, an online video creator, students worked with librarian Stacey Schwartz to perfect a presentation about a book they loved. Students not only considered the plot and characters, but they also matched the book's mood and theme when selecting backgrounds, music, and images. The final products are on display in the school lunchroom and hallways.